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WAR CRIMES OFFICE

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probate

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By Sgt. Stanley Fink, USMC, 334 West 4th Street, Bethlehem, Pa., former editor of the Bethlehem Globe-Times.

~~F~~ GUAM, March 00-(Delayed)--A photograph, found by a Marine on a Jap he had killed during American reoccupation of Guam, recently played an important role in the probate of an estate in the civilian court.

Juan ~~V~~ Perrez was a retired U.S. Navy man living with his family here when the Japs captured the island in December, 1941. Last ¹⁹⁴⁴ June, just one month before U.S. forces invaded Guam, Perrez was accused by the Japanese of hiding firearms and ammunition.

His wife, in probating the estate of her husband, brought a small snapshot to court. It was obtained by her son San Vincente ~~V~~ Perrez, a Navy man stationed here, from one of his Marine friends who had taken it from a dead Jap's blouse pocket.

The picture showed three Guamanians kneeling beside open graves with several Jap soldiers forming an execution detail standing by. San Vincente recognized one of the kneeling men as his father. The Marine told him he could keep the photograph.

Investigation showed the three natives in the snapshot had been clubbed to death by the enemy after being forced to dig their own graves.

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The snapshot was accepted by the court as legal evidence that Perrez was dead and the estate was probated without further ado.

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